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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 36 of the First Extraordinary Session  
By Tidwell

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend E. R. "Reid" Bell for  
dedicating his talents and energies to helping  
others.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of the Tennessee General Assembly  
should pause to honor those persons who have dedicated their talents and energies to helping  
others, and who through their personal endeavors are credits to their respective families,  
communities, and to this state; and

WHEREAS, Mr. E.R. "Reid" Bell, a true representative of the finest traditions of the  
Volunteer State, is one such outstanding person who is richly deserving of the special  
commendation of this Body; and

WHEREAS, Reid Bell was born August 9, 1942, in Camden, to Marvin and LaVerne  
Bell; and

WHEREAS, Reid Bell has expertly devoted himself to a number of worthy endeavors  
including: the Alzheimer's Foundation, Relay for Life, Heart Walk, and the Children's Miracle  
Network Telethon; and

WHEREAS, Reid Bell is one of the founding members of Benton County's "Better  
Education Today" program; and

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 7036

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WHEREAS, always giving back to the community, Reid Bell is a member of several civic organizations including the Lion's Club where he has raised over 1,000 pairs of eyeglasses and numerous hearing aids to help the impaired and needy; and

WHEREAS, in 1960, at the age of 17, Reid was a disk jockey at his hometown radio station, WFWL, where his show "High School Hits" helped him earn money to pay for his upcoming college tuition at Middle Tennessee State College; and

WHEREAS, after many years as a successful entrepreneur in Nashville, owning several businesses including an employment agency and an independent insurance company, Reid recently returned home to Camden to once again pursue his love of broadcasting; and

WHEREAS, Reid took over the 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon time slot on WFWL-AM, creating the popular "Morning Coffee Break" program, incorporating his own brand of radio including on-air visits and phone reports from local officials relaying items of great interest to his many listeners such as the hospital report, funeral home report, bargain auction, police report, and the lunch menu for area schools, along with his "original county favorites" from the 1970s or earlier; and

WHEREAS, "Morning Coffee Break" quickly became the most listened-to program in the area, giving Reid a vehicle for his many humanitarian efforts including working with the "Sav-A-Pet" program to help find homes for over 400 pets, and the Toys 'N' Joys Telethon" which helps raise money to see that every needy child in the Camden area has Christmas presents to open; and

WHEREAS, after several devastating tornadoes struck Benton County in February 1999, Reid opened up the radio station in the middle of the night where he broadcast continually for seven hours to keep the area informed of weather conditions and the emergency teams that were mobilized to aid victims; and

WHEREAS, in the weeks after the tornadoes hit, Reid invited members of the Tennessee Titans football team to join him for a radiothon which netted enough money for two Doppler radar systems for the area; and

WHEREAS, further aiding tornado victims, Reid helped to obtain housing, clothing and even a wheelchair ramp for those in need; and

WHEREAS, as a result of his many humanitarian efforts through his radio program, “Morning Coffee Break”, Reid was recently honored by the Country Radio Broadcasters Association, at their annual meeting in Nashville, as the Top AM Country Program In Service to the Community in the world; and

WHEREAS, Reid Bell also writes a weekly column for his hometown newspaper, *The Camden Chronicle*; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Reid Bell faithfully worships the Lord as an active and devout member of the First United Methodist Church of Camden, where he serves on the Administrative Board, Education Committee, and the Council on Ministries; and

WHEREAS, Reid is most appreciative of the love and support he receives from his wife, Martie Bell, and his two children, Douglas Bell and Tara Bell; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to honor and commend Reid Bell for his dedication to his fellow citizens of the great State of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Mr. E.R. “Reid” Bell for his untiring commitment to his community and to helping those in need, and for being a true Tennessean, and wish him every continued success in future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.